

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /059 W

-----065220 130319Z /64

R 121430Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1683

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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USEEC AND EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST DEPUTIES RESIGNING

SUMMARY: THREE COMMUNIST (PCE) DEPUTIES IN THE CORTES (PARLIAMENT) APPEAR TO BE ON THEIR WAY OUT; ONE HAS RESIGNED, ONE INTENDS TO, AND THE LAST (PARTY PRESIDENT DOLORES IBARRURI) IS BEING PUSHED. END SUMMARY.

1. DOLORES IBARRURI, "LA PASIONARIA", EIGHTY-TWO YEAR OLD PRESIDENT OF THE PCE, IS RECOVERING WELL FROM CARDIAC PACEMAKER SURGERY LAST WEEK, BUT MAY BE ASKED TO RESIGN
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HER SEAT IN THE CORTES. LEADERS WITHIN THE PCE IN OVIEDO PROVINCE HAVE CONFIRMED TO THE PRESS THAT THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS SUGGESTED HORACIO FERNANDEZ (NUMBER TWO ON THE PCE OVIEDO LIST) AS HER REPLACEMENT IN THE CORTES, ALTHOUGH DENYING THAT THEY HAVE EXPLICITLY REQUESTED HER RESIGNATION. HER POOR HEALTH WAS REPORTEDLY THE DECIDING FACTOR, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ONLY OTHER PCE

CORTES REPRESENTATIVE FROM OVIEDO, SENATOR WENCESLAO ROCES, IS ALSO ELDERLY AND IN DELICATE HEALTH. "LA PASIONARIA" HAS NOT YET RESIGNED, NOR IS THERE ANY INDICATION WHETHER HER FIGUREHEAD ROLE AS PCE PRESIDENT WOULD BE AFFECTED.

2. PCE DEPUTY AND PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER MARCELINO CAMACHO ANNOUNCED 9 SEPTEMBER THAT HE WOULD SOON RESIGN HIS LOWER HOUSE SEAT, THE TIMING TO DEPEND ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE CORTES ON CERTAIN LAWS (UNSPECIFIED, THROUGH PROBABLY DEALING WITH LABOR REFORM). HE GAVE AS REASON HIS DESIRE TO CONCENTRATE ON TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES (HE IS SECGEN OF THE POWERFUL COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS/SWC). HIS CORTES SEAT WOULD BE OCCUPIED BY VICTOR DIAZ-CARDIEL GONZALEZ, NEXT IN LINE ON THE PCE'S MADRID LIST.

3. LAST WEEK THE FAMED "STREET POET" RAFAEL ALBERTI (ALSO ELDERLY) RESIGNED AS THE PCE'S LONE DEPUTY FROM CADIZ, GIVING BOTH PERSONAL REASONS AND THE DESIRE TO SEE THE PROVINCE REPRESENTED BY A "LEADER OF THE WORKERS." HE WILL BE REPLACED BY FRANCISCO CABRAL OLIVEROS, A FIFTY-EIGHT YEAR OLD FARM LABORER, LONG A PCE LEADER IN THE PROVINCE.

4. COMMENT: THE RESIGNATIONS MAY DO THE PCE SOME MARGINAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DAMAGE, SINCE OTHER PARTIES (ESPECIALLY THE PSOE) WILL PROBABLY CHARGE THAT THE PCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USED STALKING HORSES TO GAIN VOTES WITH OUT EVER INTENDING THAT THEY SERVE A FULL TERM. GIVEN "LA PASIONARIA'S" AGE, WE DOUBT MANY PEOPLE REALLY EXPECTED HER TO SERVE A FULL TERM, WHILE THE POPULAR ALBERTI IS NO POLITICIAN AND THE VOTERS KNEW IT. THE RESIGNATION OF CAMACHO, WHO IS CERTAINLY NOT DECREPIT, IS CREDIBLE ON THE ANNOUNCED REASONING. WE WOULD SPECULATE THAT BY THIS RATHER DRAMATIC MOVE, THE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS HOPE TO MAKE THE POINT (ON THE EVE OF THE ANNOUNCED PLANT ELECTIONS) THAT THEIR TOP MAN IS SO CONCERNED WITH TRADE UNION MATTERS THAT HE HAS NO TIME FOR POLITICS. IN CONTRAST, OF COURSE, SECGEN NICOLAS REDONDO OF THE SOCIALIST UGT REMAINS IN THE CORTES. WE NOTE, INCIDENTALLY, THAT EVEN WITHOUT CAMACHO, THE PCE STILL HAS TWO SWC SECRETARIAT MEMBERS AMONG ITS DEPUTIES (GARCIA SANCHEZ AND SOTO MARTIN). EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, PARTY LEADERS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1309941
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST DEPUTIES RESIGNING SUMMARY: THREE COMMUNIST (PCE) DEPUTIES IN THE CORTES (PARLIAMENT) APPEAR TO BE ON THEIR WAY OUT; ONE HA
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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